IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page **12**, line **18**, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In addition, other types of killer genes may be utilized similarly. These include naturally-occurring or synthetic genes. A nonlimiting example of a naturally-occurring gene that is suitable for use in the invention is the *hok* gene product described by Gerdes et al. (Gerdes, K., Bech, F., Jorgensen S., Loebner-Olsen, A., Rasmussen, P.,Atlung, T., Boe, L., Karlstrom, O., Molin S., and von Meyenburg K. 1986. Mechanism of postsegregational killing by the *hok* gene product of the *par*B system of plasmid R1 and its homology with *rel* F gene product of the E. coli *rel*B operon. EMBO J. 5: 2023-2029). Examples of man-made nucleic acid molecules that may be used in this aspect of the invention include: (1) sequences encoding non-hemolytic β-amino acid oligomers, which are a new class of molecules based on inhibitors of Sigma-Core RNA polymerase interaction; (2) sequences encoding peptides with bactericidal activity and endotoxin neutralizing activity for Gram-negative bacteria as described in U.S. Patent 5,830,860; (3) sequences encoding RNA molecules with binding affinity to critical bacterial cellular targets (e.g., Chen, H., Gold, L. 1994. Selection of high affinity RNA ligands to reverse transcriptase: Inhibition of cDNA synthesis and Rnase H activity. Biochemistry 33: 8746-8756); and (4) oligonucleotides generated by the *SELEX* method for the *in vitro* evolution of nucleic acid molecules with highly specific binding to target molecules as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,475,096 and U.S. Pat. No. 5,270,163.